regarding joint research in arid-zone agriculture, water management and evaluation of ground water resources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) India and USA have agreed in principle to undertake cooperative research projects for enhancement of productivity in arid-zone agriculture, water management and evaluation of groundwater resources. The details are yet to be worked out

Persons benefited under IRDP

87 SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons benefited under the Integrated Rural Development Programme so far during the current year; and

(b) what are the details of the benefits given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) 12.70 lakh families have been assisted under IRDP upto the end of September, 1987. The annual target under the programme is to assist 39.11 lakhs.

(b) Under IRDP assistance is given to the eligible families in the rural areas for taking up and viable project in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. The assistance is given by way of subsidy provided by the Government and the term credit mobilised by the financial institutions for taking up of the projects.

Holding of international children film festival

88 SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold International Film Festival in November, 1987; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) An International Children's Film Festival of India is being held by the Children's Film Society of India (CFSI), Bombay every alternate year in collaboration with different State Governments. This year such Festival will be held at Bhubaneshwar from November, 14 to November 23, 1987 by CFSI in collaboration with the Government of Orissa. The Festival aims, *inter alia* at promoting and encouraging the children film movement and fostering a close relationship among the international fraternity of children's film makers/organisations. There will be 3 sections in this Festival (1) Competition (2) Information (3) Market

Enquiry into starvation deaths in Orissa

89. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the starvation deaths in Kasipur block of Koraput and Kalahandi districts of Orissa;

(b) what are the findings of the enquiry; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The enquiries conducted by the State Government have revealed that there was no